GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5332
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2015
INTER STATE MIGRANT WORKMEN ACT
Hari Shri G.;Udhayakumar Shri M.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether there are estimated 326 million internal migrants who migrate from one State to another and if so, the reasons for such migration in the country;

(b)whether the migrant workers are covered under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 and if so, whether the stipulations of the said Act are not implemented in true spirit by the Government and that there is no mechanism to track their movements and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c)whether such inter-State workers are also deprived of their basic dues such as minimum wages etc.;

(d)if so, whether the Government has any proposal to revise the said Act in view of the above and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e)whether the Government is considering to establish migrant labour cells in each State and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): As per Census, 2001, the total number of internal migrants is 309.385 million. The reason for such migration are lack of job opportunities in the local market, avenue for better wages or better employment opportunities at the destination states/cities, inter regional disparity in economic growth.

(b): Yes, Madam. The migrant workers are covered under the Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. Central Government monitors the implementation of the provisions of the Act for the establishments which fall under the Central sphere. The responsibility for enforcement of the provisions of the Act for the establishments located under the States sphere lies with the respective State Governments. The Central Government and some of the State Governments have signed Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate strengthening of inter-state coordination mechanism for smooth implementation of the activities in source and destination areas of migrant workers.

(c): No Madam. All the benefits and facilities meant for migrant workers are provided to migrant workers including minimum wages. In case of any violations of the provision of Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 in the Central sphere come to the notice, the concerned authorities take appropriate action against the defaulters. Details about number of inspections conducted, irregularities detected, prosecution launched and number of convictions obtained are enclosed at Annexure − A.

(d): An Expert Committee has been constituted to look into various provisions of Inter State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979 for bringing about comprehensive amendments in the Act in the overall interest of migrant workers.

(e): The Central Government and some of the State Governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). As per MoU inter-state coordination cell is to be setup which will, inter-alia, maintain database of migrant workers.